



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA.

A PROCLAMATION

JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

- WHEREAS:** Since our nation's founding, Jewish Americans have been active and valued members of our society, playing important roles in the accomplishments and advancements of the United States; and
- WHEREAS:** Jewish Americans have made significant contributions in the arts, academia, medicine, scientific research, business, and much more, and through a long history of honored service in the U.S. Military and public offices; and
- WHEREAS:** Members of the Jewish community first arrived in what would become the State of Georgia in 1733, shortly after James Oglethorpe landed with the first wave of colonists in Savannah, remaining resilient and active citizens throughout Georgia's entire 290-year history; and
- WHEREAS:** Throughout those centuries of progress, members of the Jewish community have had a considerable impact. Notable leaders include Revolutionary veteran Captain Abraham Simons, who also served in the state legislature in the early 1800s; Aaron Haas, who won election to the Atlanta City Council in 1874 and then became the city's first Mayor Pro Tem; Harold Hirsch – a lineman for the University of Georgia football team with a building named in his honor on the campus – who, in addition to working as the lead attorney for the Coca-Cola Company and being instrumental in the development of its distinctive bottle, started the Atlanta Jewish Welfare Fund in 1936 to raise money for the immigration of European Jews; Josephine Joel Heyman, a social advocate who fought against lynching as early as the 1920s; Fannie Boorstin who painstakingly worked to establish the Breman Jewish Home for the elderly in 1951; Helen Alexander, who founded a speech and hearing school that became a model for the first special education program in Georgia public schools; and so many others. David Emanuel, for whom Emanuel County is named, was also an early and prominent leader in Georgia's past, serving as president of the Georgia Senate before becoming governor in 1801. Some historians believe him to be the first Jewish governor of any U.S. state; and
- WHEREAS:** The Month of May has been named Jewish American Heritage Month across the United States since 2006, and the State of Georgia joins in recognizing and celebrating the positive impact on society made by Jewish Americans; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim May 2023 as JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 9th day of May in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Three.



B.P.K.

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Morton Kipertovich

CHIEF OF STAFF